SOCIAL SERVICES BLOCK GRANT ALLOCATION PLAN

FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2011 OCTOBER 1, 2010 – SEPTEMBER 30, 2011

STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

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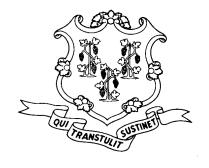


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THE SOCIAL SERVICES BLOCK GRANT ALLOCATION PLAN FOR FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2011

I. Overview of the Social Services Block Grant: Summary of Block Grant Purpose, Provisions and Proposed Changes

A. Purpose

The Social Services Block Grant (SSBG) was established by the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1981. It is an amendment to Title XX of the Social Security Act for the purpose of funding a variety of social service programs and related training activities.

The SSBG is administered by the United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) through its administrative agency, the Office of Community Services. The Connecticut Department of Social Services is designated as the principal state agency for the allocation and administration of the Block Grant within the State of Connecticut.

B. Major Use of Funds and Target Population

The block grant legislation gives the state significant discretion in providing a wide range of services aimed at achieving the following goals:

- Achieving or maintaining economic self-support to prevent, reduce or eliminate dependency or institutionalization;
- Achieving or maintaining self-sufficiency, including reduction or prevention of dependency;
- Preventing or remedying neglect, abuse, exploitation of children and adults unable to protect their own interests, or preserving, rehabilitating or reuniting families;
- Preventing or reducing inappropriate institutional care by providing for community-based care, home care, or other forms of less intensive care;
- Securing referral or admission for institutional care when other forms of care are not appropriate or providing services to individuals not in institutions.

The Family Support Act of 1988 and regulations subsequently published in November 1993 by the Department of Health and Human Services established and defined twenty-nine SSBG service categories. These service categories are identified and described in Part II Table C.

For FFY 2011 funds are allocated to 12 of the 29 eligible service categories. The SSBG supports the programs of five state agencies in addition to the Department of Social Services (DSS). DSS provided grants from SSBG funds to approximately 121 private non-profit and municipal service providers in FFY 2010.

The state may transfer up to 10% of its allotment for any fiscal year for use that year under the provisions of federal block grants for support of preventative health and human services, alcohol and drug abuse, mental health services, maternal and child health services, and low-income home energy assistance.

The state may use a portion of the funds for the purpose of purchasing technical assistance from the public or private entities if the State determines that such assistance is required.

The state may **not** use funds for the following:

- the purchase or improvement of land, or the purchase, construction or permanent improvement (other than minor remodeling) of any building or other facility;
- the provision of cash payments for costs of subsistence or for the provision of room and board (other than costs of subsistence during rehabilitation, room and board provided for a short term as an integral but subordinate part of a social service, or temporary emergency shelter provided as a protective service);
- payment of wages to any individual as a social service (other than payment of wages to welfare recipients employed in the provision of child day care services);
- the provision of medical care (other than family planning services, rehabilitation services, or initial detoxification of an alcoholic or drug dependent individual) unless it is an integral but subordinate part of a social service for which grants may be used;
- social services (except services to an alcoholic or drug dependent individual or rehabilitation services) provided in and by employees of any hospital, skilled nursing facility, intermediate care facility, or prison, to any individual living in such institution;
- the provision of any educational service which the state makes generally available to its residents without cost and without regard to their income;
- any child day care services unless such services meet applicable standards of state and local law;
- the provision of cash payments as a service (except as otherwise provided under federal law);
- payment for any item or service (other than an emergency item or service) furnished
 - by an individual or entity during the period when such individual or entity is excluded under federal law, or
 - at the medical direction or on the prescription of a physician during the period when the physician is excluded under federal law and when the person furnishing such item or service knew or had reason to know of the exclusion (after a reasonable time period after reasonable notice has been furnished to the person);
- support services provided directly by staff of a correctional facility for criminal offenders or ex-offenders.

The Target Population:

The Social Services Block Grant will be used to provide needed social services to vulnerable persons or families with special emphasis on those groups which are less able than others to care for themselves (e.g., people with disabilities, youth and older people).

Vulnerable persons or families are those who exhibit one or more of the following conditions (not presented in any ranked order):

- Economically disadvantaged (unemployed, under-employed, or low income);
- Physically, mentally, neurologically, or developmentally disabled;
- Abused/neglected (e.g., sexual assault victims, abused and/or exploited children and elderly);
- In need of language and cultural awareness assistance and/or technical immigration assistance;
- In need of drug or alcohol services;
- In need of family planning services;
- In need of mental health support services (e.g., distressed families or persons who may be at risk of institutionalization);
- In need of supportive services in order to remain in the community;
- In need of shelter assistance.

Recipients of services shall have incomes no higher than 150 percent of federal poverty income guidelines (see Section IV), except that the following services shall use the following income guidelines:

- Protective Services for Adults, Protective Services for Children, Family Planning, Information & Referral, and Independent and Transitional Living services shall be provided without regard to income;
- 2. Recipients of Child Day Care services and Transportation services shall have incomes no higher than 75 percent of state median income.

Section 403 of Public Law 104-193, the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act (PRWORA) of 1996, bars most qualified aliens who entered the U.S. after August 22, 1996 from eligibility for "Federal means-tested public benefits." The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has determined that Social Services Block Grant services are not "Federal means-tested public benefits." Therefore, qualified aliens, regardless of when they entered the United States remain eligible for SSBG services if they meet other program requirements.

C. Federal Allotment Process

Federal allotments to states for the SSBG program are based upon the national appropriation and Department of Commerce census data. Funds are allocated to each state in the same proportion as the state's population is to the population of all states.

D. Estimated Federal Funding

For FFY 2010, the SSBG was funded at a national level of \$1.7 billion. Connecticut's final allocation in regular SSBG funds was \$19,466,287.

Federal funding for FFY 2011 has not been finalized. Although the President's budget proposes to freeze funding for SSBG at FFY 2010 levels, the department has prepared this plan using a projected five percent reduction in federal program funds. In view of Connecticut's declining population and President Obama's proposal to reduce the federal budget by five percent in discretionary domestic spending, the department is estimating Connecticut's SSBG funds to be \$18,492,973. If additional funds are available, allocations will be adjusted in proportion to the amounts shown in this plan.

E. Summary of Total Estimated Expenditure and Proposed Allocations

The total Social Services Block Grant funds available for expenditure in FFY 2011 are expected to be \$18,492,973. The department does not anticipate having any carry-forward funds In FFY 2011.

F. Proposed Allocation Changes From the FFY 2010 Plan

Please note that the changes between the proposed FFY 2011 budget and the estimated FFY 2010 expenditures are due to an anticipated reduction in federal funds. Actual allocations from the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to the states can vary based on the state's increase or decrease in population. Although the department has not been notified of any projected changes to date, it is anticipated that Connecticut's overall funding will be reduced by 5%.

The total amount estimated to be available in FFY 2011 is \$18,492,973. The allocation for FFY 2010 was \$19,466,287. Allocations are projected based on the President's recommended budget and are revised when the actual budget is enacted. The President's recommended budget for Social Services Block Grants for FFY 2010 was \$1.7 billion and Connecticut's projected allocation was \$19,629,594. Although the enacted budget for FFY 2010 was also \$1.7 billion, Connecticut's actual allocation was \$19,466.287.

Transfer from TANF to SSBG:

In addition to the funds appropriated by Congress and carry-forward funds, the SSBG includes \$26,678,810 that will be transferred from the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Block Grant. Because the transfer is approved by the General Assembly within the DSS budget, funding for these programs has not been incorporated elsewhere in this plan.

Federal law allows states to transfer up to ten percent of the TANF Block Grant to SSBG; any reduction in available dollars under the TANF Block Grant will reduce the amount of funding for SSBG/TANF programs. Should the department receive a reduction in available dollars for the TANF Block Grant, it is the department's intention to attempt to mitigate the impact of these cuts to the SSBG/TANF programs, if possible, through other available resources or by proportionately reducing those programs funded with SSBG and SSBG/TANF dollars.

The following is a list of the programs funded by TANF, the amounts transferred from TANF for those programs and the appropriate SSBG service category

UNT
178,024
697,930
666,791
593,028
326,832
861,555
129,646
46,818
541,846
23,409
107,304
340,851
355,639
209,614
87,134
260,610
251,779
678,810

G. Contingency Plan

This allocation plan has been prepared based on an estimated FFY 2011 block grant award to Connecticut of \$18,492,971, which is a reduction of five percent from last year's total allocation. The department does not anticipate having any carry forward funds. If for any reason this figure changes, the allocations will be adjusted in proportion to the amounts shown in this plan.

H. State Allocation Planning Process

Social Services Block Grant funds were originally allocated based on a Negotiated Investment Strategy (NIS) allocation methodology.

The Family Support Act of 1988 and regulations subsequently published in November 1993 by the Department of Health and Human Services established twenty-nine SSBG service categories. For FFY 2011, DSS will use twelve of the service categories (see Table A on page 11). DSS will continue to refine and make minor adjustments to the assignment of SSBG funded programs to the federal service categories.

The Department of Social Services is collaborating with the Office of Policy and Management in the development of a multi-year state plan for the competitive procurement of human service contracts. To the extent this plan affects services provided under SSBG, the requirements of this plan will be implemented consistent with the provisions of P.A. 07-195, codified under subsection (c) of section 4-70(b) of the Connecticut General Statutes and/or any other pertinent act or policy as promulgated by the Legislature or the Office of Policy and Management.

I. Grant Provisions

42 USC Section 1397a entitles each state to receive, for each fiscal year, an amount equal to its allotment for such fiscal year, to be used by the state for services directed at the goals of the Social Services Block Grant.

42 USC Section 1397c requires that prior to expenditure of SSBG funds by a state, the state shall report on the intended use of the payments that the state is going to receive, including information on:

- the types of activities to be supported;
- categories or characteristics of individuals to be served.

The plan must be submitted to the Secretary of HHS and be made public to facilitate comment by any person and shall be revised throughout the year as may be necessary to reflect substantial changes.

II. Tables of Budgets, Expenditures, Objectives and Activities

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TABLE A

SOCIAL SERVICES BLOCK GRANT

SUMMARY OF APPROPRIATIONS AND EXPENDITURES

	SOMMANT OF AFFROFRIATIONS AND EXPENDITURES					
Service Code	PROGRAM CATEGORY	FFY 2009 EXPENDITURES	FFY 2010 ESTIMATED EXPENDITURES	FFY 2011 PROPOSED EXPENDITURES		
2	Case Management Services	1,998,654	1,935,275	1,838,513		
4	Counseling Services	409,040	396,070	376,266		
9	Family Planning Services	994,764	963,220	915,059		
13	Home-Based Services	6,280,141	5,717,973	5,432,075		
16	Independent & Transitional Living Services	4,436,695	4,296,003	4,081,203		
17	Information & Referral Services	38,260	37,048	15,269		
18	Legal Services	786,511	761,570	723,491		
21	Protective Services for Adults	565,956	548,010	540,535		
25	Special Services for Persons with Dev. or Physical Disabilities or Persons with Visual or Auditory Impairments	2,926,936	2,834,120	2,692,414		
27	Substance Abuse Services	1,543,331	1,494,391	1,419,671		
28	Transportation Services	377,851	365,869	347,576		
29	Other Services	120,561	116,738	110,901		
	TOTAL	20,478,700	19,466,287	18,492,973		
	SOURCE OF FUNDS					
	BLOCK GRANT	19,629,594	19,466,287	18,492,973		
	CARRY FORWARD FROM PRIOR YEAR	849,106				
	TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE	20,478,700	19,466,287	18,492,973		

TABLE B

SOCIAL SERVICES BLOCK GRANT: PROGRAM EXPENDITURES

PROGRAM CATEGORY	FFY 2009 EXPENDITURES	FFY 2010 ESTIMATED EXPENDITURES	FFY 2011 PROPOSED EXPENDITURES
Number of Positions (FTE)			
Personal Services			
DSS			
Other State Agencies	61,444	59,496	56,521
Other Expenses			
Equipment			
Contracts			
Grants to:			
Local Government			
Other State Agencies	5,746,490	5,401,493	5,023,428
Private Agencies	14,670,766	14,005,298	13,413,024
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	20,478,700	19,466,287	18,492,973
	Sources of FFY 09 Allocations	Sources of FFY 10 Allocations	Sources of FFY 11 Allocations
Carry Forward Funds	849,106		
Federal Block Grant Funds	19,629,594	19,466,287	18,492,973
TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE	20,478,700	19,466,287	18,492,973

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TABLE C

Service Code	Service Category	Objective	Grantor Agency Activity	Numbers Served FFY 2009 *
2	Case Management	Services are arranged, coordinated, and monitored to develop and implement an individual service plan, and to	DSS Provides grants to eight municipalities and nineteen grants to non-profit agencies.	19,637 adults and 2,327 children
		provide counseling, and to evaluate client progress.	DMHAS Supportive Housing program provides case management and support services for mentally ill clients to live in the community and to work toward self-sufficiency and employment	178 adults
4	Counseling Services	Therapeutic processes are applied to personal, family, situational or occupational problems to achieve a positive resolution of the problem or improve individual and/or family	DSS Provides grants to seven municipalities and nine non-profit agencies for counseling services. DMHAS Provides grants to four non-profit	24,908 adults and 894 children 668 adults
0	Familia	functioning.	agencies for counseling services.	40 400 adulta and
9	Family Planning Services	Family planning services are those educational, comprehensive, medical or social services or activities which enable individuals, including minors, to determine freely the number and spacing of their children and to select the means by which this may be achieved.	DSS Provides one grant to the Planned Parenthood League of Connecticut for the provision of family planning services.	16,183 adults and 3,373 children

^{*} SSBG funds supplement the provision of services across the state. The statistics reflected above may represent outcomes associated with other programs and funding sources of which SSBG is a contributor.

TABLE C

Service Code	Service Category	Objective	Grantor Agency Activity	Numbers Served FFY 2009 *
13	Home-Based Services	Home-based services are those in-home services or activities provided to individuals or families to assist with household or personal care activities that improve or maintain adequate family wellbeing.	DSS Community-Based Services – These funds are used by the Department to maintain adults with disabilities in independent living through the provision of services; to increase the likelihood that the home environment for people with disabilities will be healthier due to the provision of homemaker and chore services; and to increase opportunities for persons with disabilities to achieve self-direction and choice by the provision of private providers.	51 adults
			BESB Provides services for adult clients who participate in the Independent Living Services Skills Training Program.	40 adults
16	Independent and Transitional Living Services	Independent and transitional living services are those services and activities designed to help older youth in foster care or homeless youth make the transition to	DSS Provides grants to one transitional living program and provides a portion of the funding to forty-three homeless shelters DMHAS	12,445 adults 1,044 adults
		independent living, or to help adults make the transition from an institution, or from homelessness to independent living	Provides grants to support four shelters which provide varying services including case management, relapse prevention, follow-up aftercare, and referral to substance abuse treatment, referral for housing, employment opportunities, and job training	1,044 audits

^{*} SSBG funds supplement the provision of services across the state. The statistics reflected above may represent outcomes associated with other programs and funding sources of which SSBG is a contributor.

TABLE C (Cont'd)

Service Code	Service Category	Objective	Grantor Agency Activity	Numbers Served FFY 2009 *
17	Information and Referral Services	Information and referral services are those services or activities designed to provide information about services provided by public and private service provides and a brief assessment of client needs (but not diagnosis and evaluation) to facilities appropriate feral to these community provides	DMHAS Provides direct information and referral services through the community based prevention system of this agency OPA Provides funds to subcontractors who provide support and referral services for persons with physical and mental disabilities	2,761,751 adults 6,039 adults
18	Legal Services	Services or activities provided by a lawyer or a person under the supervision of a lawyer to assist individuals in seeking or obtaining legal help in civil matters.	DSS Provides a grant to Connecticut Legal Services, Inc. (CLS). CLS delegates a portion of the funding to New Haven Legal Assistance Association, Inc. and Greater Hartford Legal Aid, Inc.	1,137 adults and 134 children
			OPA These funds are used to help support the services of a staff attorney and related legal expenses. The greatest percentage of these legal expenses is devoted to securing the rights of special education students.	6 adults

^{*} SSBG funds supplement the provision of services across the state. The statistics reflected above may represent outcomes associated with other programs and funding sources of which SSBG is a contributor.

TABLE C (Cont'd)

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Service Code	Service Category	Objective	Grantor Agency Activity	Numbers Served FFY 2009 *	
21	Protective Services for Adults	Protective services for adults are those services or activities designed to prevent or remedy abuse, neglect or exploitation of adults who are unable to protect their own interests.	DSS Provides two grants to municipalities and seven grants to private non-profit agencies throughout Connecticut for various protective services.	3,857adults received protective services from SSBG funded providers.	
			CDHI Provides protective services for the deaf and hearing impaired individuals of the state.	190 adults	
			OPA Provides direct advocacy services by human services advocates to persons across the state with physical and/or mental disabilities.	254 adults	
25	Special Services for Persons With Developmental or Physical Disabilities, or Persons With Visual or Auditory Impairments	Special services for persons with developmental or physical disabilities, or persons with visual or auditory impairments, are services or activities to maximize the potential of persons with disabilities, help alleviate the effects of physical, mental or emotional disabilities, and to enable these persons to live in the least restrictive environment possible.	DDS Provides various forms of supported employment day programs for mentally retarded individuals.	8,611 adults	
27	Substance Abuse Services	Substance abuse services are those services or activities that are primarily designed to deter, reduce, or eliminate substance abuse or chemical dependence. Except for initial detoxification services, medical and residential services may be included but only as an integral but subordinate part of the service.	DMHAS Provides grants to support sixteen clinics which provide intensive and immediate residential treatment, intensive outpatient services, methadone maintenance and long term care and treatment services.	5,178 adults	

^{*} SSBG funds supplement the provision of services across the state. The statistics reflected above may represent outcomes associated with other programs and funding sources of which SSBG is a contributor.

TABLE C (Cont'd)

Service Code	Service Category	Objective	Grantor Agency Activity	Numbers Served FFY 2009 *
28	Transportation	Transportation services are those services or activities that provide or arrange for the travel, including travel costs, of individuals in order to access services, or obtain medical care or employment.	DSS Provides for one transportation grant to a municipality and two additional contracts have been made for the provision of transportation to work for former welfare clients.	2,342 adults and 33 children received transportation services from SSBG funded providers.
29	Other Services	Other services are services that do not fall within the definitions of the preceding eleven (11) services but meet the purposes of the Social Services Block Grant	DSS Supplements other human resource programs such as case management, or recreation summer camp for children, boys & girls clubs. Other State Agencies DDS, BESB and CDHI use a portion of their SSBG funding for administrative expenses.	100 adults and 200 children

^{*} SSBG funds supplement the provision of services across the state. The statistics reflected above may represent outcomes associated with other programs and funding sources of which SSBG is a contributor.

III. ALLOCATIONS BY PROGRAM CATEGORIES

SOCIAL SERVICES BLOCK GRANT List of Block Grant Funded Programs FFY 2010 Estimated and FFY 2011 Proposed

Service Code	Program Category	FFY 2010 ESTIMATED EXPENDITURES	FFY 2011 PROPOSED EXPENDITURES
2	Case Management Services		
	Department of Social Services (DSS)	1,677,871	1,593,979
	Dept. of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS)	257,404	244,534
	TOTAL	1,935,275	1,838,513
4	Counseling Services		
	Department of Social Services	301,919	286,823
	Dept. of Mental Health & Addiction Services	94,151	89,443
	TOTAL	396,070	376,266
9	Family Planning Services		
	Department of Social Services	963,220	915,059
	TOTAL	963,220	915,059
13	Home Based Services		
	Department of Social Services	5,649,841	5,367,349
	Board of Education & Services for Blind (BESB)	68,133	64,726
	TOTAL	5,717,974	5,432,075
16	Independent & Transitional Living Services		
	Department of Social Services	4,117,483	3,911,609
	Dept. of Mental Health & Addiction Services	178,520	169,594
	TOTAL	4,296,003	4,081,203
17	Information & Referral Services		
	Dept. of Mental Health & Addiction Services	16,073	15,269
	Protection & Advocacy – Disabled (OPA)	0	0
	TOTAL	16,073	15,269
18	Legal Services		
	Department of Social Services	740,596	703,566
	Protection & Advocacy - Disabled	20,974	19,925
	TOTAL	761,570	723,491

III. ALLOCATIONS BY PROGRAM CATEGORIES (Cont'd)

SOCIAL SERVICES BLOCK GRANT List of Block Grant Funded Programs FFY 2010 Estimated and FFY 2011 Proposed

Service Code	Program Category	FFY 2010 ESTIMATED EXPENDITURES	FFY 2011 PROPOSED EXPENDITURES
21	Protective Services for Adults		
	Department of Social Services	244,931	232,684
	Commission on Deaf & Hearing Impaired (CDHI)	211,610	201,030
	Office of Protection and Advocacy	112,443	106,821
	TOTAL	568,984	540,535
25	Special Services for Persons with Developmental or Physical Disabilities or Persons with Visual or Auditory Impairments		
	Dept. of Developmental Disabilities (DDS)	2,834,120	2,692,414
	TOTAL	2,834,120	2,692,414
27	Substance Abuse Services		
	Dept. of Mental Health & Addiction Services	1,494,391	1,419,671
	TOTAL	1,494,391	1,419,671
28	Transportation		
	Department of Social Services	365,869	347,576
	TOTAL	365,869	347,576
29	Other Services		
	Department of Social Services	57,242	54,380
	Other State Agencies	59,496	56,521
	TOTAL	116,738	110,901
	GRAND TOTAL	19,466,287	18,492,973

IV. Federal Poverty Level and State Median Income

2010 Federal Poverty Level Annual Amounts		
Assistance Unit Size	100%	150%
1	\$10,830	\$16,245
2	14,570	21,855
3	18,310	27,465
4	22,050	33,075
5	25,790	38,685
6	29,530	44,295
7	33,270	49,905
8	37,010	55,515

Each additional person, add \$3,740

State Median Income Amounts (SMI) 2010		
Assistance	 0/+	
Unit Size	75%*	
	*	
1	\$39,841	
2	51,838	
3	64,035	
4	76,232	
5	88,429	
6	100,627	
7	102,914	
8	105,201	

^{*}Day Care and Transportation Services